

## **STATE OF CALIFORNIA SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY**

### **Sierra Nevada Conservancy Grant Program Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Act of 2006 (Proposition 84)**

**Applicant:** SEQUOIA AND KINGS CANYON NATIONAL PARKS

**Project Title:** RESTORATION OF MOUNTAIN YELLOW-LEGGED  
FROGS AND AQUATIC ECOSYSTEMS IN SEQUOIA  
AND KINGS CANYON NATIONAL PARKS (SEKI):  
PRE-PROJECT DUE DILIGENCE

**Application Number:** SNC 080226

### **PROJECT SCOPE**

The project will support Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks (SEKI) in gaining critical years of restoration toward recovery of the rapidly declining mountain yellow-legged frog (MYLF) and the aquatic ecosystem on which it depends. Although a once-common inhabitant of high elevation Sierra Nevada lakes and streams, it has disappeared from 94% of sites in its historic range, largely due to predation by non-native trout, and very recently due to an emerging infectious disease. In 2001 SEKI began to eradicate non-native trout from eleven lakes and adjacent streams located near reproducing frog populations, and surveys were conducted in restoration lakes to measure changes in frog abundance as an indicator of project success. By the end of 2008 nearly 24,000 trout had been removed, including complete eradication from three lakes and significant progress toward eradication from eight lakes. These eleven lakes showed an average 16-fold increase in the densities of frogs and tadpoles detected, while one lake showed a 72-fold increase.

Due to this success, SEKI recently initiated planning to expand restoration to approximately 73 additional lakes and adjacent streams across these Parks., which comprehensively addresses the habitat of the MYLF in the Parks. SEKI will provide in-kind support for 55% of the project cost, requesting the remaining funds to implement pre-project due diligence for long-term restoration of MYLFs and aquatic ecosystems. The funds will support approximately one year of staff time for a lead aquatic technician to assist SEKI staff in completing this pre-project due diligence. The specific tasks include:

- (1) completing environmental documents,
- (2) conducting field assessments,
- (3) developing restoration prescriptions, and
- (4) creating a detailed implementation plan.

This grant will not only improve watershed health, but also implements a critical step outlined in the State's Wildlife Action Plan, which is the restoration of MYLFs. In implementing the goals of this grant, SEKI would be assisting in the achievement of one of the most critical State identified, conservation objectives for the Sierra Nevada.

## PROJECT SCHEDULE

<b>DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES</b>	<b>TIMELINE</b>
Complete planning, NEPA, and CEQA environmental documents which includes a comprehensive, scientifically defensible, environmental document that addresses all alternatives for long-term restoration and protection of MYLFs and aquatic ecosystems	March 2009 – March 2010
Conduct field assessments on the highest-priority, long-term restoration sites to support development of detailed restoration prescriptions for each location	May 2009 – October 2009
Write and submit six-month progress report to SNC	September 2009
Process field assessment data to develop detailed restoration prescriptions for the highest-priority sites; create a detailed, overall implementation plan for long-term restoration of MYLFs and aquatic ecosystems	October 2009 – July 2010
Final report to SNC	October 2010
<b>FINAL PAYMENT REQUEST</b>	<b>December 31, 2009</b>

## PROJECT COSTS

<b>PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES</b>	<b>TOTAL SNC FUNDING</b>
Complete planning, NEPA, and CEQA environmental documents	\$14,970
Conduct field assessments	17,465
Process field assessment data to develop restoration prescriptions and develop the long-term restoration plan	17,465
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$49,900</b>

## PROJECT SUPPORT LETTERS

- California Department of Fish and Game

## PROJECT PERFORMANCE MEASURES

There are four Performance Measures common to all grants. In addition, grantees are required to include between one and three project-specific measures. Performance Measures listed here represent those proposed by applicants and may be modified through further discussion with SNC staff.

- Percent of Pre-project and Planning Efforts Resulting in Project Implementation